

**From:** T. Todd Jones - NOAA Federal <todd.jones@noaa.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 4, 2018 12:26 AM

**To:** George Balazs - NOAA Federal; NMFS PIC PSD; Balazs personal

**Cc:** Michael Seki - NOAA Federal; Evan Howell - NOAA Federal; Jeffrey Polovina - NOAA Federal; Yonat Swimmer - NOAA Federal; John Wang - NOAA Federal; Donald R. Kobayashi; Susan Kamei

**Subject:** Re: Farewell to PSD in my capacity as an MTBAP Volunteer

Dear All,

Green turtles in Hawaii are recognized as the Central North Pacific Distinct Population Segment and listed as Threatened. Under the IUCN they are listed as Least Concern. To designate a population as a DPS takes information on genetics, movement, and population structure. To be listed as Threatened requires population status and trends, a full assessment. This information comes from publications, reports, and long seasons of HARD WORK!!! George is the single authority on the Hawaiian green turtle (Honu) and it is from his dedication and long-lived career as a turtle biologist that we have these designations today! The Hawaiian green turtle is recovering, on the road to recovered, and will most likely be de-listed in our lifetime. This will be grounded in George's life work.

George is as active and strong as ever in the marine turtle community, he is a Board member of the International Sea Turtle Society, leading his own NGO for sea turtle research and consultation, and is the Chair for the IUCN Oceania Region. I look forward to continuing our relationship as friends, colleagues, co-authors, and just old time turtlers...

See you around George!

Kind regards,  
Todd

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T. Todd Jones, Ph.D.  
Supervisory Research Biologist

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On 9/30/2018 4:28 PM, George Balazs - NOAA Federal wrote:

Hello and Aloha, PSD, I'm writing to tell you that my NOAA email will gently be taken out of service in a matter of days. My year of volunteering for TTodd has now come to a close and it's time to say goodbye once again from this formalized aspect of my evolving work and life post-NOAA. I've enjoyed assisting TTodd and advising him whenever asked to do so. He is an excellent friend and leader so you can be certain that whatever help I can give him, and he can give me, will continue for years to come- as is always the way for good colleagues.

An auto-reply will be sent out from my NOAA email for a few months to let people know how to contact me should it be appropriate to do so for their needs.

With Appreciation and Best Regards,

George H. Balazs

Part-Time Volunteer Sea Turtle Scientist

Marine Turtle Biology & Assessment Program

Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center

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